



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Canola Production
Egg Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Wheat Utilization
Ag Stats Book Available Soon
Red Meat Production

October 1, 2008 Crop Production

Alfalfa hay production in Montana is estimated to be 3.3 million tons, down 13 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa hay yield is unchanged from the August forecast of 2.0 tons per acre, but is down 0.3 ton per acre from the 2007 yield. Harvested area, at 1.65 million acres, is unchanged from the August forecast and the previous year.

Other hay yield, at 1.3 tons per acre, is down 0.1 ton per acre from August's forecast and down 0.2 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.3 million tons, down 4 percent from 2007. Other hay harvested area is unchanged from August at 1.0 million acres, but is up 100,000 acres from 2007. All hay production is estimated to be 4.6 million tons, down 11 percent from last year. All hay yield is estimated to be 1.7 tons per acre, down from 2.0 tons per acre last year.

Montana's sugar beet production is forecast at 783,000 tons for 2008, unchanged from the September forecast, but 33 percent below 2007. Forecasted yield, at 25.5 tons per acre, is unchanged from September, but up 0.8 ton per acre from last year. Harvested acreage, at 30,700 acres, is unchanged from September, but down 16,300 acres from last year.

Montana canola producers expect to harvest 7,100 acres in 2008, compared with 7,700 in 2007. Yield is expected to be 1,300 pounds per acre, down 1 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 9.2 million pounds, compared with 10.1 million pounds last year.

U.S. alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay production is forecast at 71.4 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.44 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from August and up 0.09 ton from 2007. Harvested area is forecast at 20.8 million acres, unchanged from August but down 4 percent from the previous year's acreage.

Other hay production in the United States is forecast at 79.1 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 2 percent from 2007. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected

to average 1.99 tons per acre, up 0.05 ton from the August forecast and up 0.04 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.7 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 1 percent from the previous year.

Production of sugar beets in the U.S. is forecast at 28.0 million tons, 7 percent above the September forecast but 12 percent below 2007's production of 31.9 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, 4,600 acres below the September forecast and the lowest acreage since 1982. The yield is forecast at 26.5 tons per acre, up 1.8 tons from September and up 0.9 ton from the previous year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. Yields were at or above last year's level in all States except in the Pacific Northwest. As of September 28, harvest was 7 percent complete in the four major producing States, 3 points behind normal.

The first U.S. canola production forecast for 2008 is 1.52 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2007. Area planted, at 1.04 million acres, is up 3 percent from the June estimate but down 13 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.01 million acres, up 3 percent from June but down 13 percent from 2007. The October yield forecast, at 1,514 pounds per acre, is 264 pounds above last year's yield.

October 1, 2008 Crop Production, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Sugar Beets	Tons	47.5	31.6	47.0	30.7	24.7	25.5	1,161	783
Canola	Lbs	8.0	7.5	7.7	7.1	1,310.0	1,300.0	10,087	9,230
Alfalfa Hay	Tons	---	--	1,650.0	1,650.0	2.30	2.00	3,795	3,300
Other Hay	Tons	--	--	900.0	1,000.0	1.50	1.30	1,350	1,300
All Hay	Tons	--	--	2,550.0	2,650.0	2.00	1.74	5,145	4,600
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Sugar Beets	Tons	1,268.8	1,092.1	1,246.8	1,053.1	25.6	26.5	31,912	27,958
Canola	Lbs	1,183.0	1,008.0	1,163.0	1,006.0	1,250.0	1,514.0	1,453,830	1,523,246
Alfalfa Hay	Tons	--	--	21,670.0	20,778.0	3.35	3.44	72,575	71,424
Other Hay	Tons	--	--	39,955.0	39,661.0	1.95	1.99	77,729	79,076
All Hay	Tons	--	--	61,625.0	60,439.0	2.44	2.49	150,304	150,500

September U.S. Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during September 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 990 million were broiler-type and 65 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during September 2008 averaged 334 million, down 2 percent from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,194 eggs, up 1 percent from September 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2008 totaled 333 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 333 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2008, averaged 73.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from October 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September 2008 totaled 36.4 million, up 3 percent from September 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.5 million on October 1, 2008, up 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 210 thousand during September 2008, down 30 percent from September 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during September 2008 totaled 757 million, down 3 percent from September 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 606 million on October 1, 2008, down 6 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.89 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2008, down 6 percent from September 2007.

September U.S. Milk Production Up 1.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during September totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from September 2007. August revised production at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 1.7 percent from August 2007. The August revision represented an increase of 24 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,652 pounds for September, 7 pounds above September 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 118,000 head more than September 2007, but 8,000 head less than August 2008.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 46.8 billion pounds, up 1.6 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.28 million head, 118,000 head more than the same period last year.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on October 1, 2008. The inventory was 5 percent below October 1, 2007 and 9 percent below October 1, 2006. The inventory included 6.51 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.85 million head, down 5 percent from 2007.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.28 million, 6 percent below 2007 but 2 percent above 2006. Net placements were 2.23 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves

weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000, 600-699 pounds were 415,000, 700-799 pounds were 541,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 880,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.81 million, 7 percent above 2007 and 3 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 51,000 during September, 6 percent below 2007 and 25 percent below 2006.

2007 Wheat Utilization

The total wheat supply in Montana for June 2007-May 2008 was 180.3 million bushels, down 6 percent from the previous year. Total supply is calculated by adding the all wheat production in 2007 to the June 2007 all wheat stocks. Total disposition during this period was 161.4 million bushels, slightly lower than the previous year. The ending stocks on June 1, 2008 were 18.9 million bushels, down 38 percent from the previous year. Information on the wheat utilization report is assembled from Grain Movement reports and Federal Grain Inspection Service data by the USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office.

Montana shipped 139.7 million bushels out of state during June 2007-May 2008, 8 percent above what was moved out of state the previous year. A total of 116.1 million bushels were sent to Pacific Northwest destinations, accounting for 83 percent of the out of state total. Export destinations in the Pacific Northwest received 104.1 million bushels, and processing destinations received 12.0 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 282.0 million bushels, up 17 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 37 percent, down 1 percentage point from the previous year.

All Wheat Supply and Disposition, June through May, 2003-2007 1/

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 2/	41.6	40.4	51.3	39.1	30.5	78
Production	142.3	173.2	192.5	153.1	149.8	98
Total Supply	183.9	213.6	243.8	192.2	180.3	94
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 3/	120.2	122.9	165.7	129.8	139.7	108
Used for seed in Montana	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.5	6.1	111
Residual 4/	17.4	33.7	33.4	26.4	15.6	59
Total Disposition	143.5	162.3	204.7	161.7	161.4	100
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	48%	48%	56%	57%	64%	
Ending Stocks 2/	40.4	51.3	39.1	30.5	18.9	62
1/ June through May of the following year.						
2/ June 1 stocks, All Positions						
3/ Montana Wheat Movement Project						
4/ Used for flour, livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.						
Please note: Funding for this data was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.						

All Wheat Recorded Movement by Destination, June through May, 2003-2007 1/

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007/2006
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	128.8	132.1	173.7	137.8	148.5	108
Out of Montana	120.2	122.9	165.7	129.8	139.7	108
Pacific Northwest Destinations	84.1	89.9	129.7	106.2	116.1	109
Export Destinations	68.5	77.5	114.5	92.4	104.1	113
Export Facilities	65.6	76.0	113.2	91.7	103.6	113
Columbia/Snake River Barge system	2.9	1.5	1.3	0.7	0.5	71
Processing Destinations	15.6	12.4	15.2	13.8	12.0	87
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	10.9	9.0	13.6	13.1	10.9	83
Mills	4.7	3.4	1.6	0.7	1.1	157
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	36.1	33.0	36.0	23.6	23.6	100
Montana Destinations	8.6	9.2	8.0	8.0	8.8	110
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum-Pacific ports 2/	205.5	239.3	230.5	241.3	282.0	117
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum exports from Pacific ports	33%	32%	50%	38%	37%	
1/ June through May of the following year.						
2/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.						
Please note: Funding for this data was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.						

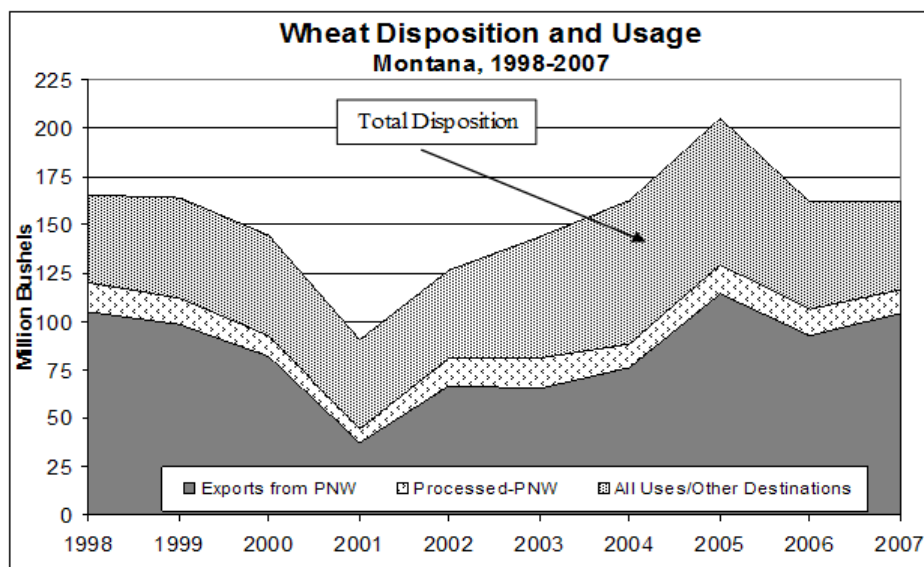
**Montana Agricultural Statistics
2008 Book Available Soon**

The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers,

Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2008 book will be available in December in printed form or on our

website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The price for the printed book is \$10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.



September Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2008, down 7 percent from August, but up 35 percent from a year ago. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, up 600 head from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 19 pounds from 2007 to 1,162 pounds.

During September there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered, up 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 240 pounds, dropped 15 pounds from last year. September sheep slaughter in the state totaled 600 head, 200 head above September 2007. The average live weight decreased 14 pounds to 116 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.27 billion

pounds in September, up 11 percent from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in September 2007.

Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, up 8 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,298 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.8 million pounds, 37 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,500 head, up 56 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was down 33 pounds from last year, at 251 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.96

million head, up 14 percent from September 2007. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 266 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was up 6 percent from September 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, up 1 pound from September a year ago.

January to September 2008 commercial red meat production was 37.7 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
2008 Crop Year Summary
Austrian Winter Pea
Production
Dry Bean Production

Dry Edible Pea Production
Lentil Production
Potato Production
Sugar Beet Production

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